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March 8, 2021

**VIA ELECTRONIC FILING**

Jocelyn G. Boyd, Esquire  
Chief Clerk & Administrator  
Public Service Commission of South Carolina  
101 Executive Center Drive, Suite 100  
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

RE: South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff's Motion to Solicit Comments from Utilities and Other Interested Stakeholders Regarding Measures to be Taken to Mitigate Impacts of Threats to Safe and Reliable Utility Service;  
Filing Joint Resolution 620 and a Proposed Procedural Schedule;  
**Docket No: 2021-66-A**

Dear Ms. Boyd:

On behalf of the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff ("ORS"), I am writing to notify the Commission of the attached Joint Resolution, S. 620, which recently was introduced in the South Carolina Senate and currently is under consideration by the General Assembly. If adopted, the Joint Resolution would require the South Carolina Public Service Authority and the electric cooperatives to participate in the above-referenced docket and to cooperate with and assist ORS in its task to review and evaluate South Carolina's public and private power grid and its ability to withstand potential ice storms and other dangerous weather conditions. The Joint Resolution also would strongly encourage other non-regulated utilities to participate in this proceeding and to cooperate with and assist ORS with this review and evaluation.

ORS has committed to provide a draft of the assessment to Governor McMaster and legislative leaders by September 30, 2021, and to provide a final report by December 31, 2021, so that they can be considered in advance of the 2021-2022 winter heating season. In light of this timeframe and ORS's expectation that a significant number of interested parties may be required to or otherwise seek to participate in this docket, ORS requests that the Commission establish the following procedural schedule. ORS respectfully submits that these proposed dates would allow this matter to proceed in a timely manner while also allowing the participating stakeholders sufficient time to provide their comments and input:

ORS Provides Notice of this Proceeding to South Carolina Regulated and Non-regulated Electric and Natural Gas Utilities	March 12, 2021
ORS Posts Notice of this Proceeding on its Website	March 12, 2021
Interested Parties Submit Initial Comments	June 11, 2021
Interested Parties Submit Responsive Comments (Optional)	June 25, 2021

By copy of this letter, I am serving all parties of record to this matter. Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

Sincerely,

*s/Benjamin P. Mustian*

Benjamin P. Mustian

Enclosure

cc: All Parties of Record  
David Butler, Esquire

**South Carolina General Assembly**  
124th Session, 2021-2022

**S. 620**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

Joint Resolution

Sponsors: Senators Rankin, Alexander and Hutto

Document Path: l:\council\ills\df\13053cz21.docx

Introduced in the Senate on February 25, 2021

Currently residing in the Senate Committee on **Judiciary**

Summary: Power Grid Review

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date	Body	Action Description with journal page number
2/25/2021	Senate	Introduced and read first time ( <a href="#">Senate Journal-page 6</a> )
2/25/2021	Senate	Referred to Committee on <b>Judiciary</b> ( <a href="#">Senate Journal-page 6</a> )

View the latest [legislative information](#) at the website

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[2/25/2021](#)

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3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9                   **A JOINT RESOLUTION**

10  
11 TO REQUIRE THE SOUTH CAROLINA PUBLIC SERVICE  
12 AUTHORITY AND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES TO  
13 PARTICIPATE IN A PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
14 DOCKET IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OFFICE OF  
15 REGULATORY STAFF'S MOTION TO SOLICIT COMMENTS  
16 FROM UTILITIES AND STAKEHOLDERS REGARDING  
17 MEASURES TO MITIGATE IMPACTS OF THREATS TO SAFE  
18 AND RELIABLE UTILITY SERVICES; TO REQUIRE THE  
19 PUBLIC SERVICE AUTHORITY AND ELECTRIC  
20 COOPERATIVES TO COOPERATE WITH AND ASSIST THE  
21 OFFICE OF REGULATORY STAFF IN ITS REVIEW TO  
22 EVALUATE SOUTH CAROLINA'S POWER GRID; AND TO  
23 STRONGLY ENCOURAGE OTHER NONREGULATED  
24 UTILITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN THAT PUBLIC SERVICE  
25 COMMISSION DOCKET AND TO COOPERATE WITH AND  
26 ASSIST THE OFFICE OF REGULATORY STAFF IN ITS  
27 REVIEW TO EVALUATE SOUTH CAROLINA'S POWER  
28 GRID.

29  
30 Whereas, citizens across the United States have followed the  
31 catastrophic disaster in Texas resulting from the recent winter  
32 storms and its electric grid's inability to provide electricity to  
33 Texans; and

34  
35 Whereas, on February 22, 2021, the Office of Regulatory Staff  
36 (ORS) submitted a Motion to Solicit Comments from Utilities and  
37 Other Interested Stakeholders Regarding Measures to be Taken to  
38 Mitigate Impacts of Threats to Safe and Reliable Utility Service; and

39  
40 Whereas, ORS' motion requested that the Public Service  
41 Commission (PSC) open a docket and require regulated electric and  
42 natural gas utilities, and allow the South Carolina Public Service

1 Authority, the electric cooperatives, and other nonregulated utilities,  
2 to provide information to the Commission “regarding measures the  
3 utilities have taken and plan to take to mitigate the negative impacts  
4 of potential ice storms and other dangerous weather conditions and  
5 to ensure peak customer demands on the utility system can be met  
6 during extreme weather scenarios”; and

7  
8 Whereas, the devastation and loss of human life in the wake of the  
9 disaster in Texas inspires the General Assembly to investigate South  
10 Carolina’s infrastructure to ensure that electricity providers in this  
11 State have acceptable contingencies and abilities to meet the  
12 demands of our citizens and protect them from any similar  
13 catastrophic weather events. Now, therefore,

14  
15 Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South  
16 Carolina:

17  
18 SECTION 1. (A)(1) The South Carolina Public Service Authority  
19 and the electric cooperatives must participate in a PSC docket that  
20 is opened in accordance with ORS’ February 22, 2021, Motion to  
21 Solicit Comments from Utilities and Other Interested Stakeholders  
22 Regarding Measures to Mitigate Impacts of Threats to Safe and  
23 Reliable Utility Service.

24 (2) The South Carolina Public Service Authority and the  
25 electric cooperatives must cooperate with and assist the ORS in its  
26 task to review South Carolina’s public and private power grid to  
27 evaluate its ability to withstand potential ice storms and other  
28 dangerous weather conditions; and

29 (3) Other nonregulated utilities are strongly encouraged to:

30 (a) participate in a PSC docket that is opened in accordance  
31 with ORS’ February 22, 2021, Motion to Solicit Comments from  
32 Utilities and Other Interested Stakeholders Regarding Measures to  
33 Mitigate Impacts of Threats to Safe and Reliable Utility Service; and

34 (b) cooperate with and assist the ORS in its task to review  
35 South Carolina’s public and private power grid to evaluate its ability  
36 to withstand potential ice storms and other dangerous weather  
37 conditions.

38 (B) Upon completion of its review, the ORS must provide a  
39 summary of its findings and any recommendations to the President  
40 of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the  
41 Public Utilities Review Committee.

42

1 SECTION 2. This joint resolution takes effect upon approval by  
2 the Governor.  
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